

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

RSR-01 /086 W

----- 022250

R 240935 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8844

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2146

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: GOS PRIME MINISTER' S VISIT TO TAIWAN

REF: A) SINGAPORE 1992 (NOTAL); B) TAIPEI 2870

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL SUBJECTS WITH MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY TAN BOON SENG, DCM RAISED SUBJECT OF PM' S VISIT TOTAIWAN. TAN REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON VISIT. PRIME MINISTER WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ANY MFA REPRESENTATIVE, AND TAN HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFED. HE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT ANY INFORMATION ON VISIT WAS GOING TO BE TIGHTLY HELD, AND REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER' S REMARK REPORTED IN JAPAN TIMES WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT TAIWAN VISIT THAT HE WAS " ENTITLED TO HIS PRIVACY." EXCHANGE WAS GOOD NATURED, BUT IT APPEARS THAT INFORMATION PROBABLY WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

2. EMBASSY IS PURSUING SOURCES THROUGH OTHER
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CHANNELS. EMBASSY DID CALL ROC TRADE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE YESTERDAY BUT WAS TOLD THAT ITS DIRECTOR, PETER CHANG, WAS ON VISIT TO TAIPEI. DEPUTY TRADE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT NO ONE IN OFFICE WAS INFORMED OF LEE'S VISIT AND MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERED IT A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED SUBJECT INDEED. DCM ALSO RAISED SUBJECT WITH MINDEF LOGISTICS CHIEF ONG KAH KOK WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH GOS INTEREST IN ROC PILOTS. ONG PLEADED OFF THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED BUT DID STATE THAT MILITARY MATTERS WERE PRINCIPAL AREA OF INTEREST. ONE LOCAL SOURCE STATES THAT PM WANTED TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF TAIWAN-PEKING RELATIONS BUT IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT BASIC INTEREST WAS IN MILITARY MATTERS SUCH AS ROC PILOTS FOR SADC, POSSIBILITY USING TRAINING AREAS, ETC.

3. CONTRARY TO INFO CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B)
PM LEFT JAPAN ON 14 MAY AND RETURNED SINGAPORE ON 17 MAY. TAN CONFIRMS THAT PM WAS TWO AND ONE HALF DAYS ON TAIWAN.
CRONK

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINT, PINT
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